

THE GATEWAY

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OUCH! The Golden Bears and Pandas wrestling teams held their invitational and open tournaments on Friday and Saturday, respectively. The Bears won five medals, while the Pandas struggled against some experienced competitors. For more on this past weekend's tournament, see page 13 in Sports.

Business, Science to vote on new fees

CHLOÉ FEDIO
Deputy News Editor

The provincial government has already announced a tuition freeze for the 2006/07 academic year, but students in the Faculty of Science and the School of Business may face a minor fee increase if they vote in favour of the institution of a non-instructional Faculty Association Membership Fee (PAMF).

In the coming months, the Business Students' Association (BSA) who is asking for a fee of \$15 per year, and the University of Alberta Science Undergraduate Society (UASUS), asking for \$2 per year, will each put their question to vote in a referendum. The proposed fee will only be collected if approved by more than 50 per cent of votes casted with a minimum voter turnout of 15 per cent.

PLEASE SEE FEES • PAGE 4

Incumbent MP Rahim Jaffer stresses accountability issues

This is part of a series of Q&As with the candidates for MP in Edmonton-Strathcona. Marxist-Leninist candidate Kevan Hunter is featured on page 3. Last week, Progressive Canadian Mike Fedeleko and Liberal Andy Hladyshevsky were featured. On Thursday, we'll conclude the series with Linda Duncan of the NDP and Cameron Wakefield of the Green Party. Marijuana Party candidate Dave Dowling declined to participate.

JAKE TROUGHTON
Senior News Editor

Conservative candidate Rahim Jaffer is the three-time incumbent Member of Parliament for Edmonton-Strathcona, having been elected with the Reform, Canadian Alliance and Conservative parties. In 2004, he was elected with 19 089 votes (39.4 per cent), just over 5000 more than his nearest competitor.

What do you consider the three most important issues in this campaign?

The issues that I hear on the ground talking to everybody—whether they're students or other constituents—I think the first one is accountability in this election. I think with everything that's been happening in Ottawa, and the

way the current government's been spending Canadians' money, there's been a real crisis in people's confidence in their government, and I think the reason for that is a lack of accountability. People are saying that to me, and they're using that word quite regularly. I think that's the number one issue I'm finding in this election. Aside from that, there are different issues depending on what a person's interests are. Definitely, concern for healthcare comes in the top three. And I think because this riding has such a large component of students and because the University's such a big part of this riding in so many different aspects, education tends to come up quite regularly as well. So I think those would be three of the issues that are probably the top issues here in Edmonton-Strathcona.

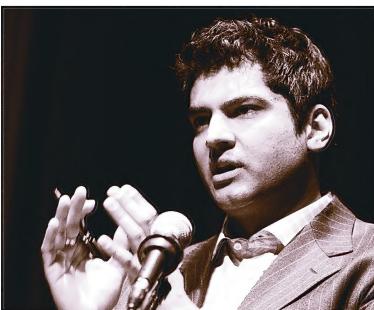
While postsecondary education is primarily a provincial responsibility, the federal government has long had a role as well. What do you think Ottawa's role should be in this area?

I think Ottawa has a couple of significant roles. One is to fund postsecondary education effectively to keep our universities competitive and up to par, especially when you look at the challenges of keeping resources and personnel here in Canada; many of them

look, unfortunately, at going down to the US. With that, one thing that we should be doing at the federal level, which should have happened by now, is really identifying the transfer that goes to the institutions and education in general from the federal government. They still lump the transfers together between health and education, which makes it very difficult. I think, for Canadians to see the transparent way that money actually flows into things like education and healthcare. It gives a lot of power to provinces to be able to put the money anywhere that they want, and I think if we could split that transfer from Ottawa—we've been encouraging the current government to do that, and we haven't had any success—it would put more pressure to have more of those dollars from the federal government go into education.

Are there any aspects of your party's platform that you disagree with or are unsure of?

I tend to focus more on the positive stuff, because I think no party is going to completely represent all your views. But I'm confident, with the process in our party of free votes and allowing free debate in determining policy, that if contentious issues come up for me, I'd be able to voice those con-



KATIE TWEEDIE
WARRIOR FOUR Three-time Edmonton-Strathcona incumbent Rahim Jaffer.

cerns and even possibly vote contrary to my party. I've done that in the past on a couple different issues. There's going to be issues like that that'll come up that, if what constituents of Edmonton-Strathcona think is contrary to my party, that's going to be reason for me to say I can't support the party. But for now, the general themes we're running on in this election, I tend to agree with all of them, because

they're themes that reflect what I've been working for in tax areas, on democratic reform, on reinvestment into certain social programs and the military, that sort of thing. These are all things we've been working on that are general concepts that I think all of us agree with, but when you get into specific issues, you may sometimes disagree with your party.

PLEASE SEE JAFFER • PAGE 4

Inside



Mayking the band

Local rockers The Maykings dish on Edmonton, singer/songwriters and their view on the music business

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Food Eating Place

Lawrence rages against menus and engages in some light substance abuse in today's Peanut & Circle

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Correction

In the article "New site makes selling used textbooks easier" in the 12 January issue of the Gateway, it was incorrectly reported that SUBTITLES charges a 25 per cent commission on consigned books. In fact, the fee is 15 per cent. We apologize for the error.

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colophon

The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, UnderPower word processor, Adobe Photoshop, and a Nikon Super Microscope camera. Adobe Photoshop is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are then converted to EPS files for printing. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights. Fonts: Pinto, Kepler Journa, and Arora. The Mantra font is the Gateway's paper font. The Gateway's games of choice are Burnout: Revenge and Animal Crossing.

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CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Amanda Ash

LOUD-MOUTHED SPECTATOR

On the evening of Saturday, 7 January, Campus Security received a complaint that an audience member was causing a disturbance during a performance at Convocation Hall. With the help of a description, 5-o members located the loud mouth at the main entrance of the building. He was arrested for public intoxication and turned over to the EPS, and a background check revealed his many outstanding warrants. The criminal had no University affiliation.

INAPPROPRIATE BOOZING

On Sunday, 8 January, Campus 5-o received a call that some young deviants were drinking in a stairwell at the south end of HUB Mall. The group of brown baggers, three of whom were recognized from previous dealings with Campus Security, were asked to leave campus. One of the particularly rowdy males was arrested for public intoxication and subsequently transported to emergency for treatment. He was found to be in the possession of stolen property and, after his hospital visit, was released into the custody of the EPS who are investigating the origin of the property. None of the drunks had any University affiliation.

LURKING IN THE LOO

At approximately 8am on Monday, 9

January, a male was found in the ladies washroom on the lower level of Corbett Hall. Upon discovery, he immediately left the washroom and evaded Campus Security members who were investigating the incident. The washroom lurker is described as early 30s, dark skin, red winter jacket, and carrying a backpack and shopping bags and he is believed to have been seen in the area before. If you have any information, please contact Campus Security Services at 492-5252.

UNLAWFUL RESIDENCY

Over the past two weeks, several unidentified persons have been using the southwest staircase in the Fine Arts building to stay warm and use drugs. While patrol units have increased around the area, Campus 5-o is requesting your assistance in this matter. Please report suspicious persons or activities to Campus Security Services at 492-5252.

SORRY, WE'RE CLOSED

On Saturday, 14 January, 5-o patrol members noticed a male sporting a red hoodie yanking on the entrance doors to Electrical and Computer Engineering Research Facility in an effort to gain access to the obviously closed building. It was determined that the male had a criminal record and was not affiliated with the University. He was directed off campus.

LISTERINE CAUGHT GREEN-HANDED

On Saturday, 14 January, Campus Security received a report of marijuana smoke emanating from a residence in Lister Hall. Constables attended the area and found a small amount of marijuana.

The drug was confiscated and later destroyed. The matter is now in the hands of Residence Services and the 5-o Lister Centre Liaison Officer.

POT IN THE POTTY

Campus 5-o received a report of a female smoking marijuana in a washroom stall located near the main gym in the Van Vliet Centre on Sunday, 15 January. No description was provided, as the dope head was in a closed stall. When Campus Security attended the area, the suspect had left the scene. No smells of marijuana were noticed and no unusual behavior is suspected.

ATTACK OF THE ALUMNUS

On Sunday, 15 January, Campus 5-o received a report from a frazzled female who had been followed by strange male who had been following her into the Biological Sciences Building. The woman questioned her stalker who claimed to be heading to the fourth floor. Though he was quite certain of his destination, he could not provide the professor's name with whom he was affiliated. The unruly character was later located in a students' lounge and refused to cooperate with the 5-o. The man was identified to be a University alumnus and escorted off campus.

WORKOUT WOES

On Sunday, 15 January, a gym bag containing personal belongings was stolen from the reving room in the Van Vliet Centre. A wallet was later recovered from a dumpster in the Argyle area, but the cash and personal belongings were not located. Those utilizing physical education facilities are reminded to not

leave property unattended, and to lock up values when necessary.

HOBO IN DISGUISE

A male cyclist was riding near the south end of HUB Mall on Sunday, 15 January, when Campus 5-o stopped him for numerous equipment violations. It was determined that he had been discharged from hospital earlier that day and was looking for somewhere warm to sleep. The male had no University affiliation, and was directed off of campus.

LOCKER LOOTER

On Sunday, January 15, Campus 5-o received a report regarding an unknown person trying to access the storage lockers within Newton Place apartment building. Constables attended the area and apprehended the suspicious male while he was loitering around the front entrance. The shifty character, who was recognized from previous dealings with Campus Security, was found to be in the possession of a stolen backpack. Officers took the culprit into custody and released him to police. He was subsequently charged with trespassing and possession of stolen property. The thief had no University affiliation.

CAN YOU SPARE SOME CHANGE?

On Sunday, 15 January, a gym bag containing personal belongings was stolen from the reving room in the Van Vliet Centre. A wallet was later recovered from a dumpster in the Argyle area, but the cash and personal belongings were not located. Those utilizing physical education facilities are reminded to not

STREETERS

The federal election is less than a week away, and polls are suggesting that a change of government is increasingly likely.

Who do you think will win the election?



Eric Milne
Immunology III



John Chandler
Arts III



Jennelle Gervais
Nursing I



Jennifer Publicover
Nursing I

I don't know probably the Conservatives, I'd say. I don't know enough about the parties to say, but as long as they cover issues I care about like public healthcare and education, I'm going to have to go with the Conservatives.

Paul Martin, because people don't change.

The Conservatives, hopefully, because they're supposed to be lowering bus transportation costs and stuff.

Not the Liberals, because they were saying they were going to cut our tuition by one third, but they're not going to, because they're the ones who raised it.

Compiled and photographed by Mike Kendrick and Scott Liwall

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A TALL ORDER Marxist-Leninist Party candidate Kevan Hunter speaking at a forum on campus last week.

Hunter wants to reorganize economy

Part of a series of Q&As with the candidates for Member of Parliament in Edmonton-Strathcona in the upcoming election

CHLOÉ FEDIO
Deputy News Editor

Long-time activist Kevan Hunter, the Marxist-Leninist Party candidate in Edmonton-Strathcona, is a U of A student and a director of the Alberta Public Interest Research Group (APIRG). In the 2004 federal election, Hunter finished sixth of six candidates in the riding with 103 votes (0.21%).

What do you consider the three most important issues in this campaign?

Firstly, the need to organize the economy on a socially responsible basis; to stop paying the rich, increase funding on social programs and generally just have an economy which will meet the needs of the Canadian people. To increase funding for social programs, to have strong public healthcare, strong education—the things that Canadians need. And thirdly, the need for an anti-war government; for people to take a principled stand in international affairs and uphold the right of all nations to self-determination, big or small, and to democratize the United Nations so that all nations have an equal voice.

While postsecondary education is primarily a provincial responsibility, the federal government has long had a role. What do you think Ottawa's role should be in this area?

Canada is a signatory to the 1976 UN Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which committed Canada to progressively reducing tuition with the aim of eventually eliminating it. So I think Canada should live up to this obligation. [Ottawa should also] ensure that the universities are being run in the public interest—for example, you have tons of research going on, at this University especially, which is being carried out with public funding but then for private benefit. My understanding is that a few years back, there was a drug to treat Hepatitis B that was produced here which was developed with public research money, and the University sold the patent rights for a song. Had the University received the profits that this drug is making, no one would ever have to pay tuition ever again. Or, [we could have] decided to give it away to the third world for free. So right now you have a situation where the assets that the

University has are being used to serve private profit. Furthermore, the need for skilled labour in society is always increasing, and all the companies and corporations that require skilled, trained labour that the University is providing, why shouldn't they have to pay for it? So, those are the sorts of things that Ottawa should be looking at dealing with in terms of education.

Are there any aspects of your party's platform that you disagree with or are unsure of?

No. Not at all, because our party is democratic; everybody is involved in deciding. You look at these big parties, like the Liberals and the Conservatives, all the decisions are taken from the top down and the people in the rank and file of those parties are being marginalized. So our party's decision-making goes from the bottom up; everyone is involved at every step of the way.

Our party decides and our leader can't just go and declare something else.

Look, for instance, at how the leadership campaigns are run in the big, so-called mainstream parties. It's just about signing up as many people who will support you and your bid to lead the party as possible. Our party doesn't work like that. Everybody participates and everybody carries it out.

What, if any, reforms need to be made to Canada's government structure (such as electoral or senate reform)?

I think it's critical. First of all, this issue has come up time and time again—everywhere you go in this election, people are talking about the problems of accountability in government and the scandals and the corruption and the fact that people feel that their vote doesn't count, unless you are voting for one of the big two contenders. In a lot of ridings, here in Alberta particularly, there's no serious contest. So people feel that their vote doesn't count, that there's nothing that they can do to change the situation. The youth in our party are leading a national inquiry into the political system in Canada. Our aim is to involve the whole Canadian polity, regardless of your ideology, in discussing together and talking about what kind of political system we need that will empower Canadians. Our party thinks the root of the problem is the party-dominated system of

parliamentary politics where essentially you elect a political party, and that party comes to power and it's not the people that come to power, and you end up disempowered and disenfranchised.... That needs to be changed. We want to see a system where people are involved in selecting the candidates. We think that Elections Canada should be strengthened and fund elections to ensure that there's a levelled playing field. That could mean enforcing equal airtime for all the political parties. As it stands, you get a certain amount of paid airtime depending on how many votes you got, and you get funding depending on how many votes you got, so it just reinforces the status quo.

Government ethics has been a major issue in this campaign. What do you think needs to be done to reassess voters of their government's integrity?

Again, we think accountability is incredibly important. Accountability begins at home. It's when the people of this country have control over their government that government is going to be responsible and accountable. The bottom line is that government can account to us for all their actions. So again we think it's a crisis of the party-dominated political system in Canada. Everything is about gaining power, everything is about getting elected, and these parties will get elected by any means necessary.

The national campaign has taken a decidedly negative turn in recent days. How do you feel about that, and how do you think the local campaign has compared?

I think it's more than just negativity; for me it's a matter that everything in the election is about power and nothing is about sorting out problems. The election should be a time where people have the opportunity to discuss the future of the country, the direction of the country, the problems that we face in Canada and what to do about them. Instead it has become about how the other party is completely wrong. That's why our party is leading this national inquiry so that people can have a forum where they can sort out the problems as a country. Not to sling mud, but to talk about the direction of the nation and how to strengthen the country.

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EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Faculty associations seek stable funding

FEES • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The fee can be collected for a term no longer than four years, after which it must be renewed.

UASUS President Greg German explained that the exact dates for the vote aren't set yet, but the referendum will coincide with the UASUS executive election around the second week of March. For Business students, the vote will coincide with the BSA's executive election held 7-8 February, and turnout is not usually as high as 15 per cent. BSA President Clark Barr hopes that students will take the time to vote this year.

"One of the things we're doing this semester is we're having an online election and typically, for some reason, people vote a lot more. It's more convenient for them," Barr said.

As outlined in Bylaw 8451, the purpose of a FAMP "is to provide financial support for student activities and the creation of opportunities for student involvement" in a designated faculty.

While UASUS is proposing to levy the fee for two years and reevaluate at the end of that time period, the BSA is looking to institute the fee for the full four years.

Both the BSA and UASUS plan to spend the money on sending students to national and international conferences and interschool events, which they can't otherwise afford. And while the BSA will invest in departmental clubs, there are areas where the money will not be invested.

"We're definitely not looking at scholarships, and I think that's actually poor use of the money," Barr said. "All students are pretty cash-strapped and to be collecting extra money from them just to award one or two, I don't think that's really in our mandate."

Conversely, UASUS does offer scholarships.

"This year we'll probably be in the red when it comes to scholarships and



MATT FREIHER

SOME CONCERN Councilor Steve Kirkham is cautious about proposed fees.

that's not uncommon at all, because we receive no funding from anywhere on campus at all," German said.

He went on to explain that while about 40 per cent of UASUS' disposable income comes from lockers, V-Wing, where all their lockers are located, is set to be demolished in September.

BUT SU Science Councilor Steve Kirkham cautioned against the raising of fees, even if only by a few dollars per year.

"Anything that's coming into effect that's going to raise our fees any higher immediately has negative connotations, in my books," Kirkham said.

However, it's important to look at how the money will ultimately be used, and the SU has a number of checks and balances in place to ensure the money is properly tracked.

"If a fee is implemented, most students can at least be assured that it'll be implemented fairly and it's not going to be scandalous or anything like that," Kirkham said.

Conversely, Kirkham said it's important

to ask if these extra dollars would be better kept in the pockets of students.

SU Business Councilor Ryan Payne supported the idea of a FAMP for the Faculty of Business, and said added money could help increase the prestige of a U of A business degree.

"I don't know if it seems ignorant, but I think that it's a good idea to promote the school more and I think that's what they are trying to do with it, is to get the school out there in the public more," Payne said.

"I think the first year will really have to focus on fiscal responsibility within the BSA to prove that this money is going towards good things. But again, if they're not going to use it [responsibly], I think there's going to be a strong outcry and people are going to go against it," Payne said.

This year, only the Engineering Students' Society levied an FAMP, collecting \$746 per year, which expires this year. ESS President Gary Wicentowich said they're planning to seek an extension with an increase to \$88.

Liberal campaign ads 'over the top': Jaffer

JAFFER • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

What, if any, reforms need to be made to Canada's government structure (such as electoral or senate reform)?

That was one of the key reasons I got involved in politics. Democratic reform issues were very important to me; the way that our Parliament functions, so that it actually reflects the voice of Canadians more effectively, by giving more power to individual MPs, and using the tools of Parliament in favour of Canadians. We've been calling, and many Canadians have been calling, for reform of the Senate; it's not an effective chamber the way that it's now appointed. To have an elected Senate would clearly address some of the regional concerns that we have in this country more effectively. Also, removing some of the power from the Prime Minister's Office and giving it to individual MPs to vote freely, to be able to vet appointments. Right now, the Prime Minister practically appoints every arm of government, whether it's the executive, or the judiciary, or international appointments and other forms of patronage. There's no accountability in the process, and there needs to be. We proposed the idea of having a committee that would directly vet the credentials of individuals before they get brought to a vote in Parliament, so it's truly taken out of the political realm and we start appointing people to these positions on merit, and we have a wider range of Canadians eligible for these things.

Government ethics has been a major issue in this campaign. What do you think needs to be done to reassure voters of their government's integrity?

We proposed the Federal Accountability Act, which would actually deal with many of the issues concerning the way that lobbyists interact with government, bring back ministerial responsibility—something that seems to be forgotten—as well as put right restrictions on the influence of individuals and organizations on the political process. There's a lot of things that I think need to happen to make the political process independent of a lot of special interests, and that hasn't happened. If you look at the biggest scandal that everyone seems to know and focus in on, even though there seems to be other investigations that have been developing, there's the whole idea of benefiting your friends through contracts, or handing out deals; if there were certain checks and balances that we're proposing, you wouldn't have that kind of influence or ability ... That sort of stuff, it just affects the whole nature of how government operates, and it affects Canadians in a negative way. They just get disgusted by that sort of stuff, so we need to make things open and transparent.

The national campaign has taken a decidedly negative turn in recent days. How do you feel about that, and how do you think the local campaign has compared?

I've never been a fan of negative campaigning. I think I've always remained positive and run a clean campaign, and I think we've succeeded in that. At the national level, things were quite positive in the first half of the campaign, and even into the first week and a half of January. I think we've seen some dramatic changes in the psyche of Canadians—I would've never imagined seeing some of the poll results we're seeing—and I think because of the possible shift that may be taking place, it seems some people are getting a little desperate. I was hoping we'd see a more judicious approach to advertising, and even pushing new ideas and issues ... I haven't seen all of our ads, so I don't know if some of ours are going to be going negative. We've tried to keep from going over the top. Clearly, there's going to be some negative efforts to show how poorly things have been run, but I don't think our plan was to go over the top. With some of the Liberal ads [from last week], many people would agree they have gone over the top, and some third parties have become very upset. That's the fear about trying to do that. I think you have to run on your record, present a positive vision for Canadians, and offer an alternative, and that's something we've really tried to do. I hope we're going to continue to do that at the national level, and at the local level, I think I've been as positive as I can, and I give credit to all the other candidates, who I think are all decent people who are trying to make a difference and provide a positive vision for what they represent.

OPINION

opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca • tuesday, 17 January, 2006

Journalistic integrity must be above political interference

IN THE LATE '70s, after Watergate brought Nixon and his entire administration to the chopping block, it became illegal to conduct surveillance on any American citizen within the United States without support from a secret court. But, about a month ago, the *New York Times* ran a front-page story detailing warrant-less surveillance conducted by the US administration and the National Security Agency after 11 September. The reported aim of the NSA's program was to tap phones and e-mails of American citizens for terrorist content.

Despite the dubious legality of these actions, President Bush chided the *Times'* reporters, and, far from being apologetic, went so far as to say that this type of eavesdropping is crucial to US security.

Yesterday, while the Senate committee investigating the taps mused on the theoretical possibility of impeachment, the Justice Department continued attempts to smoke out the mole within the administration—who, along with a number of *Times* writers and editors, may face indictment for their disclosure.

The journalist walks a blurrined line between conscientious anti-patriot and simple muckraker. Ostensibly, freedom of the press is a firm right in any liberal democracy, especially in the US, where it's enshrined in the country's constitution. In practice, though, governments often place limits on press freedom, especially in times of war, when many lives hinge on intelligence information. For evidence of this, one needs only to look at the effect of cracking the ENIGMA code on the success of the Allied war effort in WWII.

What, then, are we to make of Bush's claim that the fact that something leaked this program causes great harm to the United States? Remember, "There's an enemy out there." According to the President, every American is at war, including journalists. Should the *Times'* reporters be reprimanded or lauded?

The problem is, without a free press, regular citizens have virtually no hope of figuring out what their government is actually doing. Some call Bush's reaction fear mongering, claiming that he's using the post-9/11 climate to prowl a hazy personal agenda. Others see his secrecy as well-founded: after all, this war on terror is unconventional, and requires perseverance, vigilance and untraditional tactics. Either way—though the President broke the law, and the NSA destroyed evidence of spying—the administration frames the media as being at fault.

A newspaper with an international reputation is scolded for following its mandate and aiding the public discourse. Sure, in the short term, the "bad guys" might take to using payphones. But the greater evil comes when we begin to frame healthy journalism as a terrorist tool, and look at any reporter who lets the people know what the US is going on in as Bush has forgotten, freedom of the press is pretty important for democracy. It is the First Amendment, after all.

The Senate committee's findings in the coming weeks will define to what extent the Bush administration can circumvent US law in the name of freedom and democracy. But, if Bush is completely exonerated, it will also indirectly affect the powers of the press to report freely and with integrity. At a time when nations engage in deadly conflict with a vague enemy over dubious evidence, press autonomy shouldn't be limited just because political leaders don't like what they read in the *Times*.

MATT FREHNER
Photo Editor

That's a big drive

SEAGATE TECHNOLOGIES recently announced an innovation in hard drive design and construction that will allow bits of data to be stored vertically on the drive, instead of being arranged entirely horizontally along the flat surface of the platters—an advance known as perpendicular arrangement.

This is projected to mean a five-fold increase in storage capacity. What it really means is that we can all have a lot more porn.

TIM PEPPIN
Opinion Editor

LETTERS

Mirrors and spandex aren't just for the bedroom, Termeer

After reading the 12 January article, "Butterdome for Dummies", I and a number of my fellow colleagues from the Faculty of Phys Ed and Rec, were appalled.

It's clear that Ms Termeer hasn't given the Fitness and Lifestyle Center (FLC) gym a fair chance—FLC isn't even housed in the Butterdome.

But let's get to the point: if you aren't blessed with self-esteem and positive self-concept, perhaps you need to enter in an all-female gym for a while and leave those of us who have healthy self-concepts alone.

Here's why: Spandex. Honey, let's just use my DDs as an example. Can you imagine the show I'd put on without my spandex as I bounce along on the treadmill? Let's consider fashion as well as fitness, while still avoiding the "Baywatch Bounce."

Mirrors. Listen, sweetheart, clearly you don't lift. The mirrors are more for technique than they are to ogle ourselfs, like in a bedroom. We like them. Leave them alone.

The gym is a bar? Hardly. Let's put it this way: where would you rather meet a quality mate? The bar? Or the gym?

"Men's homoerotic fantasies." Homoerotic implies more than one member of the same sex, perhaps you meant autoerotic?

The jolly oldies? What?? Perhaps you need to take some notes here. I'm all for personal choice, so if you want to become sedentary, lazy, obese and eventually prematurely dead, go for it. Grab a soda, sit back and bitch about those active oldies. For those active oldies out there we youngerlings like you. We want you at the gym and we commend you for your efforts. We even aspire to be like you.

If being active throughout life means that our generation needs incentives such as socialization, positive self-image builders, good health and flaunting our attained "as-e'er" the very purpose of working out), then power to them if they're making the effort and having fun at the same time, don't chastise them for bettering themselves.

MARY LIZ HINTON
Phys Ed/Rec V

Speed dating in the PowerPlant solution to dating, money woes

I have an ideal I don't quite know how to say this but I might just have the first really great idea of the new millennium. I like to think of myself as containing all of the best personal qualities of Cupid and Donald Trump (sans haircut). Being the avid Gateway reader that I am, I noticed two recurring issues of debate in the paper: the general sappiness of the PowerPlant, and the frustration students of both genders are experiencing meeting suitable members of the opposite sex.

Here's where I come in. Lets kill two birds with one stone in a figurative orgy of efficiency and fun.



Why not host speed dating nights at the Power Plant? Think about it: it would provide much-needed business to the campus bar, as well as provide a more efficient alternative to the inherent awkwardness and contrived nature of conventional dating.

I must admit I've never been speed dating myself, but I figure with the right attitude and a little bit of gin it could potentially be a pretty good time. You could also make the registration fee a donation to the Campus Food Bank. That way if your friends hassle you about your pathetic nature you can just claim, "I'm not doing it for me—I'm doing it for charity!" You can all thank me for my wonderful idea when the PP starts turning a profit, or you find your one true love.

ERIC SLATTER
Business IV

Conservative party indifferent or hostile to gay issues

During the evening of 13 January, 2006, the GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender) community hosted a political forum at the Pride Centre of Edmonton, inviting candidates from all the political parties for the constituency of Edmonton Centre.

Candidates representing the Marxist-Leninist, Green, New Democrat and Liberal parties came to the event to answer GLBT-related questions. Sadly, there was no representative for the Conservative Party—neither Laurie Hawn nor any other representative for his party, as they declined to attend this forum.

As a person who knows many GLBT people, and who is "non-straight" myself, I find it disheartening that the Conservatives didn't even bother to address our issues. The Conservatives' refusal to come to this event sends two messages to me: either they view us

as undesirables who have no part in Canadian society, or else they see no reason wasting their time trying to win votes from the gay community.

Personally, I wonder what the Conservatives' "Stand Up for GLBT" campaign means for GLBT people. If the Conservatives would have attended this forum, maybe GLBT people could have received an answer to that question. If this is a party that could realistically form the next federal government, then I am scared for my future well-being. How can I be expected to have any respect for the Conservatives whatsoever when they haven't demonstrated any respect for me as an individual?

To members of the Conservative Party: yes, as we members of the GLBT community are people, and have a right to exist. Just as importantly, we have a right to a voice at the federal level of government. We have long fought for, and now have, the same rights to life guaranteed by law which members of the Conservative Party have long enjoyed. The Conservative Party's lack of respect for GLBT people should not be tolerated. Stand up for Canada!

RORY PITTMAN
Science IV

Why was the Gateway frigid on Antifreeze?

Attentive readers of Express News will have noticed that last week marked the 7th installment of Antifreeze, the SU's second largest annual event behind Orientation/WoWo.

As one of over 300 competitors on one of the 25 teams this year, I would like to thank Justin Kehoe, Peter Haggard and all the Antifreeze coordinators for the fantastic job they did making sure all the participants had an amazing time. Having been on the planning end myself

last year, I know how much effort is required to pull off such an event, and all the volunteers deserve praise for their efforts.

Secondly, I am curious as to why this event did not merit *Gateway* coverage. As a newspaper that holds a near monopoly over campus news, while I appreciate and am occasionally amused by the Opinion section of the publication, I hope Engineering Week receives more coverage.

These events aren't a surprise, and many students would like to know what is happening on their campus from a source other than paid advertisements.

DUNCAN TAYLOR
Arts III

Gateway now chock full of sick—or likely the good old days in Lister

When I started University, back in 2001, the *Gateway* served as my bi-weekly window to the world. Tuesday and Thursday copies were always nestled into the side pocket of my backpack. I would carefully read through each section during the week, and the opinions were always my favourite section. The writers' comments easily became topics of discussion for me and my fellow naïve first year Listerties.

Fast forward five years, four apartments, and a world of experience later. To my utter dismay, or perhaps increase in knowledge, I have come to the sad realization of what a piece of shit the *Gateway* opinion section is (or has become). It hurts me to write such slander regarding a once-beloved friend, but one must realize that the truth can sometimes hurt.

There is a trend with the past couple years of editorial articles, being that they tend to fall into one or more of the following categories:

PLEASE SEE LETTERS • PAGE 9

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Vampires, Satan and LDDDs could make Canadian elections far more interesting



SCOTT
BOURGEOIS

Election season is once again in full swing here in Canada, and it's one of my favourite times of the year. Is it because of the scandalous attack ads, or the unending rhetoric? The childish bickering, or the inane early polling? No, my favourite part of election season is the crazy people that seem to come out of the woodwork to run for office.

Now, Canada has its fair share of political crazies. We all adore the antics of the lovable Rhinoceros Party and the late-night attitude of the Marijuana Party. And who hasn't had a laugh at the self-delitating Natural Law Party, or the Republican-lite Christian Heritage Party?

But one thing that America can honestly say is that when it comes to crazies in politics—current president and all—they really are number one. Because I don't think a Canadian would have it in them to create the Vampires, Witches and Pagans Party.

The good state of Minnesota, however, has the dubious honour of having one Jonathan "The Impaler" Sharkey, a self-proclaimed vampire and Satanist, running for the governor's chair. Now, one might assume, perhaps rightly, that a man who admits to both of these traits

"Before you write off The Impaler, you should take a look at his impressive credentials. The man is a PhD, LDDD first and foremost. I couldn't find any information on what an LDDD actually is on the Internet, but it sure sounds important. He's also a Satanic Priest, a Sanguinarian Vampyre and a Hecate Witch."

wouldn't have a hope of winning an election, but Minnesota is the very state that once elected pro wrestler Jesse "The Body" Ventura into office. Perhaps The Impaler's chances aren't so bad.

Before you write off The Impaler, you should take a look at his impressive credentials. The man is a PhD, LDDD first and foremost. I couldn't find any information on what an LDDD actually is on the Internet, he's also a Satanic Priest, a Sanguinarian Vampyre and a Hecate Witch. I think that means he's deeply into New Age magic and the like. Hecate seems to be a popular magic goddess in neopagan witchcraft, and a sanguinarian is a person who feeds off of blood to maintain their mystical energies.

Now that's a resume. But what about the groundswell of Christian support in politics? Wouldn't this kill his campaign dead? Well, not necessarily. The Impaler has made it clear that he's supportive and tolerant of all religious beliefs, and will happily listen to any religiously charged concerns that people may have. Ten commandments? He'll post them on every door ... so long as you don't mind them being paired with the

creeds to every other religion as well. Now that's equal representation!

What about his stance on crime? Well, Americans like their harsh penalties, and nothing. The Impaler didn't get his nickname for nothing. He would like to see convicted pedophiles impaled on wooden poles outside the state capital, to slowly die in the midday sun. Heck, he'll do it himself if people want. Happily! Perhaps ... too happily.

And our friend The Impaler doesn't have his sights set low, either. No, he's an ambitious wench/vampire/Satanist! He wants to go straight to the oval office one day, and become leader of the free world! And that, my friends, will be a glorious day indeed.

So when you go to the ballots next week and are puzzling over whether to check the box next to NDP or Conservative, reflect for a moment that if you were in Minnesota, well, you'd be voting for a self-proclaimed vampire!

Instead, we have to settle for Stephen Harper. Not that he's not evil mind you, it's just that The Impaler at least has the balls to admit it, and I can respect that. Why vote for the lesser evil?

There's no use crying over spilled shit

If we ate all vegetables, we wouldn't have problems like tides of excrement



JAMES
STORRIE

There is a lot flying around, if you will forgive the pun, during a hurricane season. Accordingly, quite a few stories slip through the cracks, like the story of the North Carolina manure reservoirs. I liked this story, so I am going to share it with you. Then I am going to segue into something else. This is how we roll here, up in Journalismville: enjoy.

The NC shit-lagoons are, as the name suggests, giant lakes made out of poop. Pig feces, to be specific. Progress in the meat industry has led to the development of a hyper-convenient disposal system where farmers, when presented with the pressing issue of "having a lot of pig crap," alloy their feces w/ "dumping it all in a big hole." The best laid plans of pigs and men, et cetera et cetera. So when the angry fist of God fucked up most of the Old South, the poo-lakes were breached. Let me brief and just that a titanicтурbulence washing over the countryside and seeping into groundwater reserves is a pretty Bad Thing.

Now, there's a word I picked up in my 100-level econ class, before I blew off most of the lectures and failed the midterm, and that word is "externality." An externality, as you cousin the business nerd will tell you, is a type of cost—a cost that's levied on people outside of those making the deci-

sions. When, in the process of eating falafel, I get pickle brine all over my roommate's bed, that is an externality. When, in the process of making pig-meat, I spilt a quadrillion tons of pigshit all over North Carolina, that is an externality. Pigshit smells really bad, too. It's pretty much the worst kind of shit. I don't eat falafel in my roommate's bed that often, though: that would make me an asshole.

Maybe, instead of producing a bit of meat and a lot of waste, we could just make some vegetables and get like a big salad up in here or something? Don't call me up with some sob-story about your rancher father, either. Of all the crap that the meato-industrial complex churrs out, that is probably the worst: self-absorbed, weak-minded and limp-willed glutons who would rather rationalize than cut down on the Arby's, and would rather spread doodle over North Carolina than consider the consequences of their consumption.

This pretty much brings this to a close, having come full-circle back to poop. Still, I would like to get down and serious and call you guys out for being assholes. Way to spread pigshit over Nor-Car. Listen, if you can't give up Haagen-Daz or Oh Henry or Cleveland Steamers, I can deal with that. Just do what you can, all right? Make an effort. If it has a face, it doesn't go in your mouth. Poo, also, goes in toilets.



ILLUSTRATION: MIKE KENDRICK

GETTING SOME POINTERS According to Rob Fursievic, aggressive political play will eventually lose the game.

Voters finally rejecting fear, negativity



ROB
FURSIEVICZ

Paul Martin's Liberals, to all who've been subject to the endless talking points and visuals coming from their war room, have rooted their message on a claimed commitment to Canadian values and the rejection of Stephen Harper's American ones. So it's ironic that this same party is using some of the worst components of the American political system to build the engine of this year's Liberal campaign.

In an incredible fit of desperation in the last days of the campaign, the Liberals seem to have taken everything they could from the American dirty politics playbook seen on Canadian television.

Those familiar with American politics know Karl Rove, the Machiavellian architect of George W Bush's rise to power and the strategic mastermind for bringing the Republican Party into a position of dominance—often by smearing, villainizing and thoroughly crushing his opponents. Canada's Liberals are adopting a similar style.

It says it all about the Liberal party: appeal to Canada's soft America-aware voters by denouncing that country's politics and paint Harper as America's best friend, all while using some of the same techniques Bush's campaign used to beat John Kerry in 2004. Some of these include:

Policy fiction: Republicans told America that electing John Kerry meant legalizing gay marriage. Liberals tell Canada that electing Harper means criminalizing gay marriage.

Fear-mongering: Republicans por-

trayed Kerry as weak on national security and soft on terrorists. The Liberals are portraying Harper as weak on national unity and having a hard-on for American far-rightists.

Visual propaganda: We've come to recognize the snazzy graphics behind Bush during his speeches. They include few-word messages like "Securing America," and are meant to pound a theme home. Martin's people are using it, too. "Delivering on lower taxes," was a recent one. Expect to see "Vote Harper; See Canada Die" on a vibrant Liberal backdrop soon!

In an incredible fit of desperation in the last days of the campaign, the Liberals seem to have taken everything they could from the American dirty politics playbook...

Opponent obsession: Republicans directed their resources toward smearing Kerry, while staying clear of their own record and agenda. (I remember this one point, the Bush campaign website's front page had five "scary" Kerry photos—and not a single one of Bush.) The Liberals' campaign has disintegrated from highlighting their positives to talking about how bad Harper might be. For example, Martin, in his opening statement in the second leaders' debate, explained why voting for Harper was a horrific decision.

Scary, scary acts: John Kerry wanted to eat your children. Stephen Harper wants to dismember them. Etc.

The major difference? The Bush-Cheney campaign never brought another nation into its festering pit of negativity in order to win an election.

Even Karl Rove wouldn't go that far.

And just as Rove is now failing to maintain his former glory, with his unpopular president and a Republican party mired in scandal, so are the brilliant minds behind the current Liberal campaign. It's falling apart at the seams. Just think: beer and popcorn, the notwithstanding clause flip-flop, the embarrassing soldiers-in-cities ad, et al.

The Liberals and Republicans are under fire, both suffering major credibility (and legal) problems. The Republicans are projected to lose seats, power and control in the 2006 midterm elections, and the Liberals are predicted to do in 2006 what was recently thought impossible: lose. Maybe it's just a coincidence that these two parties employing similar political tactics are about to get trounced in the polls. Or, better yet, it's a hopeful sign that the politics of negativity and division are being replaced by those of accountability.

Of course, that's a bit too optimistic. The politics of personal destruction and deception will always be around—it's just a question of how far that deception, corruption and criminality can go.

I'm a little worried about giving the reigns of this great nation to Stephen Harper, a man who once led the ultraconservative National Citizens Coalition, and went on American TV to complain about our correct decision to avoid entering the disastrous Iraq War. But Stephen Harper won't send soldiers with guns to your street. He won't hand our country over to Bush—who will, by the way, be out of power midway through a hypothetical Harper first term. And the Liberals are not the party of Canadian values.

No party that uses the vicious methods of America's Republican political machine—all while denouncing that same country and that same party—can claim to be the protector of Canadian values.

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Your vote helps determine the future of our country



JARED
MILNE

For all those who are planning not to vote on 23 January, I have only three words: shame on you.

Why do so many Canadians, especially young ones, view voting in elections as though it were akin to getting an unsolicited colonic? People in other parts of the world cast their ballots under threats of bombings and death. Are we afraid of missing the latest episodes of some popular reality show, or are we just afraid it'll take too long?

Some might say that all the politicians in Ottawa right now are corrupt. Even if that's true—and it's a very big if—why not vote for some new ones? The Canadian Action Party, the Progressive Canadian Party, the Greens and the First Peoples' Party are all gearing up to run candidates. Considering how many Canadians, especially youths, didn't vote in 2004, some of these alternate candidates could be elected, sending some much-needed new blood to Parliament.

Of course, the people who actually get elected have to do their jobs too. We're likely to end up with another minority, which is a perfect occasion for the parties to cooperate for the common good. The opposition can force the government to listen to the

people who voted for them. We had this chance in the last Parliament, but it was wasted due to partisan infighting, heckling and smearing. We could learn a thing or two from Lester Pearson, who used his minority to pass some of the best legislation in history.

Canadians can have a major influence on the government, as our parents showed in 1993 when they punished Brian Mulroney for his disastrous reign of error. We in Alberta share a lot of common ground with people in other parts of the country, and we should try to work with them to make our voices heard, and to understand what those other groups are saying. Many people in every part of the country, on all parts of the political spectrum, seem upset and disgusted with the current situation. That also suggests a desire for change, and also a desire for cooperation.

This change can only occur if we get out and actually vote on election day. This is especially important for youth. Canada is suffering from a wide variety of problems. How can we take care of the environment, create a third order of government for Native Canadians, deal with gun violence, reform Parliament, keep Québec in Canada, maintain control of our resources and economy and stand up to the United States on softwood lumber and beef exports if we don't get out and vote?

We're citizens of the world, but we're also citizens of Canada. We're the future of this country, but it won't be much of a future if we don't vote.

Conscience, not fear, should decide your vote

Liberal scare tactics and smear ads no reason to avoid other political parties



PATRICK
ROSS

Anne McLellan wants you to be afraid. Upon opening her campaign office on 2 December 2005, Canada's incoming deputy prime minister had a message for Canadians: vote Liberal lest the oh-so-scary Conservatives come to power.

"Landslide," Anne McLellan—who, curiously, has never won a landslide victory—urged voters (particularly NDP supporters) to support the Liberal party by voting strategically in order to block Stephen Harper and his Conservative party from taking power.

There's a good reason why McLellan and the Liberal party push this message: in the 2004 election, an anti-Conservative swing vote was crucial in delivering the Liberal party (including McLellan, who won her riding by a scant 600 votes) to power, albeit in the form of a minority government.

This is why Paul Martin also wants you to be afraid. While his party's poll numbers continue to slip, and the Conservatives continue to extend their lead over the Liberals, Martin has (once again) resorted to warning Canadians of the "perils of Stephen Harper"—resorting to petty fear-mongering where legitimate, albeit incompetent, political campaigning has failed him.

Perhaps the most disturbing sign of this can be seen in the Liberals' newest campaign ads. One in particular makes

note of Harper's proposal to increase the presence of Canada's military in or near Canadian cities—a plan intended to improve the military's ability to respond to emergencies. The Liberal ad in question claims that this would mean "soldiers with guns in our cities," suggesting the Conservatives would declare martial law and turn Canada into a fascist police state. Of course, such a suggestion would be absurd—if it wasn't simply a flagrant lie.

Then again, perhaps Paul Martin and Anne McLellan have plenty of reason to be afraid of the Conservatives—as well as the NDP and the Green Party. Martin and McLellan have had to watch as their party's campaign is sucked deeper and deeper into the abyss of catastrophic failure, while their opponents' campaigns have been comprehensively successful.

Spreading their fear to the electorate may seem like a reasonable and effective political tactic. Unfortunately, all this does is lead Canadians astray.

The Liberal campaign urges voters to "Choose Your Canada." Never before has this statement been so profound. Many may disagree with Stephen Harper's vision for Canada—this is their right as Canadians, and god bless them for exercising it. But the Liberal alternative—a Canada where NDP and Green Party voters sacrifice their convictions for fear of the Conservative bogeyman—is certainly no better.

Now, more than ever, there's a need for Canadians to vote according to their consciences. If your conscience demands you vote for the Conservative, NDP or Green parties, please do so. If your conscience honestly demands you vote for the Liberals, that's exactly

what you should do as well.

Canadians must not allow themselves to be paralyzed by fear. On 23 January, let's choose our Canada: one where politicians can't win elections by manipulating us with fear.

THE BURLAP SACK

This sack beating goes out to you, the inconsiderate student body, for refusing to come to terms with our university's student loan process.

What is so wrong with spending an afternoon touring the campus? Are "theoretically" the university could tell us which forms we need and where to take them, but then whence the thrill of the hunt?!, for one, appreciated the exercise as I ran six times between the Administration building and the Butterdome trying to find someone to X a box on my loan certificate. I really—ah, hell, I can't keep this up.

The student loan process is shit. I shouldn't have to run around campus for four hours just to find someone who will confirm that I am in fact, a student. I don't know which one of you red-tapists is responsible for this, but whoever you are, quit your job and drown in a ditch. You ruined my life.

JAMES STORIE

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print.

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The U of A Science Undergrad Society and Business Students' Ass'n don't deserve fees

Fighting for a tuition freeze seems ridiculous when these groups demand fees



ROSS
PRUSAKOWSKI

funding. The BSA already manages to have a wide variety of services (Faculty of Business handbooks) and events (Oktoberfest) for their students, and they've managed to become one of the decently effective faculty associations on campus. The fact that they can do all of this without receiving a dime directly from students is laudable, but raises questions about the sudden demand that students shell out anything for them.

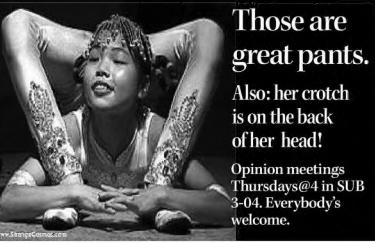
Unless the BSA is planning to buy the beleaguered Powerplant from the SU, there aren't any grounds for them to seek a student fee. While the students may eventually become slaves to the bottom line in the real world, a student association isn't a business and doesn't need to post a profit. Operating at a break-even level while serving their faculty's students is all they should be concerned about.

Though one could make a case—weak though it might be—that the BSA needs a fee to support its current activities, it's impossible to make a reasonable one for a USAS fee. Aside from a handful of pages in the SU handbook that publicize their executive and a feeble attempt at producing an informative newsletter for their students, USAS has no impact on students in the University's largest faculty. Unlike the BSA or Engineering

Student Society—which already has a fee—USAS has no services, little direct contact with the students they strive to represent and, in essence, has no reason for being.

Not only has USAS done essentially nothing for science students that merits them receiving a fee, it also has dangerous potential to become the faculty association equivalent of a banana-republic. Because dubious electoral rules allow the USAS president to appoint their Chief Returning Officer, USAS could play fast and loose with its electoral process. While these things may be considered open and democratic for authoritarian states, all it shows of the USAS is that they're unworthy of a cent of anyone's—let alone students'—money until they've become an open and responsible organization.

In the end, what the refenda that both USAS and the BSA will be running towards the end of the semester are about is wringing a few extra dollars out of students so they can increase the size of their associations' fiefdoms. This means that if the fees pass, USAS and the BSA can join the ranks of pricy, but irrelevant, features of campus life, like the koi pond outside of SUB, and the SU's annual tuition protest.



Those are great pants.

Also: her crotch is on the back of her head!

Oppinion meetings
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Given that in recent months they've spent more time debating variations on a single petition question regarding the price of beer in campus bars than the Alberta legislature has spent debating policy, it can be pretty hard to have any sympathy for Students' Council and its members.

However, when Council and the Students' Union happen to be in the critical part of the tuition protest season and are having their position undermined by some of their own constituents, you have to have some pity for them, for while the SU will be reiterating its position that students can't continue to bear continued increases in the cost of education, both the University of Alberta Science Undergraduate Society (USAS) and the Business Students' Association (BSA) will be taking this argument out to the knees as they ready plans to implement faculty association membership fees.

There's no logical explanation as to why the BSA is looking for additional

LETTERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Dumb Dating Dilemmas 101; Unresearched Rudimentary Rants; The "Apparent" Demise of the English Language; The Overdone "I'm an English Major"; Sarcastic Pic; Faculty Gifts; The Sob Story; The "I'm Hot Shit" exposé; and Geeky Gateway Club Inside Jokes (I just don't need to see details about Dave Berry's and Tim Peppin's personal lives played out over my school newspaper—who cares?)

The Gateway is the voice of the University of Alberta. From my experience in class with my peers—I know for a fact that we have much better things to talk about than the aforementioned crap. Could we try talking about the local scene, significant social issues, cool Canadians, interesting speakers, and/or lively classroom debates?

Step it up Gateway, or I'll stop picking you up.

KELSEY STROEDER
Education V

Star Trek part of the cultural vanguard for racial equality

Regarding Maureen Brinker's recent article on television and popular culture ("Television's not so bad if you actually watch it," 10 January), it was an enlightening and fun read, as usual. But as an expert on popular culture, or a "total nerd," if you will, I felt I should defend Star Trek a bit since it's already been battered and bruised after outings like Star Trek: Nemesis and Star Trek: Enterprise.

All longings for a return to quality Trek aside, her observations on alien cultures on Star Trek in relation to the real world that we live in are well made and well taken—although I should point out that Tuvok on Star Trek: Voyager was a black Vulcan, and that Captain Sisko of Deep Space Nine was a black human.

Also, let us not forget Spock's half-brother Cybok from the god-awful Star Trek: V who abandoned Vulcan teachings to embrace passion and emotion.

Furthermore, I think that there's a

Klingon Institute in the US somewhere where Ms Brinker might be interested to learn more about the Klingon language and culture so as not to give in to simple stereotypes of Klingons as mindless savages in future articles. When will this Klingon stereotyping end?

But kidding aside, the original Star Trek TV show made history at the time with the first on-screen interracial kiss between William Shatner (Kirk) and Nichelle Nichols (Uhura).

Nichelle Nichols was personally encouraged by Dr Martin Luther King Jr to accept the role of Uhura on the original Star Trek that featured a multi-ethnic cast of characters that also included Russian (Chakotay) and Asian officers at the helm (Sulu), who would later command the USS Excelsior! with Scottie, whom I believe was Scottish, constantly trying to find more power to keep the warp drive running. Remember, in 1966, this was a huge deal.

You can certainly point to various examples and draw parallels to negative stereotypes, but I think that Star Trek has generally presented more positive role models for viewers than negative, and one of the keys to its enduring longevity in popular culture has been the vision of a hopeful future where humanity has learned to peacefully co-exist and concentrate its efforts toward space exploration and self-improvement, rather than self-destruction. Now, live long and prosper.

TYSON DURST
Arts III

Some further points on proper urinal etiquette

I was very pleased upon reading Mr Peppin's Article ("His name's Dave, and he has a whistling problem," 12 January) that the issue of bathroom etiquette has finally been brought out into the open.

As Peppin pointed out there are things you do and do not do in the washroom. However, there are a few more rules that I believe must also be mentioned. Even though most people should have had enough experience in the john by

now, many are committing some major felonies.

The very first rule is establishing the proper plan of attack; picking the right urinal. Even though pee-ers must be as far away as possible, please, for God's sake choose the right one. You'll notice that urinals normally (and should always) come in odd numbers. The amount of men that can comfortably drain the sea monster at once is $X\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}$ people. Consider this scenario:

Tim walks into the washroom and notices there are 5 stalls. Aside from Tim, the biffy is still. Now that Tim is the very first stall which not only maximizes the number of available stalls to others, but maximizes the distance to Dave who enters the loo and picks the last stall. Now if another walker in lets call him Stewart, he will pick the middle stall and there will be a hole between all three men. Please use this alternation method. It minimizes the awkwardness of people next to another person in a very delicate manner.

The next rule is where you're looking. The frame of vision of a man peeing should be either down to ensure aim, at the wall or at the ceiling. There is no other place to be looking. When the job is done, always turn away from the other person if possible. This will ensure no unsightly sights on either party's behalf. As for the grunting Mr Peppin heard, it can be said that a courtesy flush serves more than one purpose.

Now there's no excuse for committing violations. Happy bathrooming.

EVAN SAMSON
Science I

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or mailed to opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous or otherwise hateful in nature.

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SPORTS

spors@gatewayualberta.ca • tuesday, 17 January, 2006

Pandas volleyball split in heated Battle of Alberta



PETE WEIN
INTENSE EFFORT Pandas libero Jodi Frison lunges for the ball this past weekend against Calgary.

CHRIS O'LEARY
Sports Editor

In a series that featured dramatic comeback victories, triumph over adversity and sobering defeat, the Pandas volleyball team's clash with the Dinos was one trip to the underworld short of epic this weekend in the Main Gym.

After giving away a 2-0 set lead on Friday night, the Pandas were able to hold off a resurgent Dinos squad, who roared their way back into the game and forced a fifth and deciding set. Early in the set, first-year Panda Tasha Holness, whose seven blocks and ten kills helped keep her and her teammates in the game, rolled her ankle and had to be helped off the court. With the Pandas in a vulnerable situation, the team's sets, particularly fifth-year outside-hitter Tawanna Wardlaw, who made a number of her game-high 21 kills to put the game out of reach for the visiting Dinos, took the final set 15-10.

"I thought the whole team stepped up at that point and nothing mattered but winning every rally and doing whatever it took to win. I was proud of them," Pandas head coach Laurie Eisler said after the game. "You can go two ways with an injury; you either start feeling sorry for yourself, or you fight. We responded appropriately."

The win over the Dinos came on the heels of two disappointing losses to Trinity Western University the weekend before. Eisler said that the Friday win was much needed, but that her team still had room for improvement.

"I don't think we're quite into the flow that we need to be finding, but the good news is that there's still some time in the season. We haven't peaked yet," Eisler laughed. "We're lucky in Canada West that competition is so high that if you're not ready you're going to pay for it. We lost last weekend to a pretty good team. It feels good to have [the win against Calgary], but we know that [Saturday] night is another battle."

While the Pandas were able to pull out the five-set win on Friday after giving up their large lead, Saturday would prove to be a different story. Calgary came out on the offensive on Saturday night, taking a 25-21 victory to get things started. The Pandas evened things up with a 25-20 victory in the second set, but it was the third set that would prove to be the decisive one. After holding a lead through the majority of the set, the Pandas were primed to close it out when they were up 21-18. The Dinos refused to quit, though, and tied the score at 24 before stealing the set from the Pandas, 26-24. The fourth set was almost a replay of the third, as the Pandas 23-19 lead gave way to the momentum of the Dinos, who roared back to win the fourth at 26-24 once again, earning themselves a weekend split. Dinos head coach Kevin Boyles said that he expected the weekend series to be another classic between the two teams.

"Any time we step on the floor with the U of A this is what we get. It doesn't matter if one team is theoretically stronger than other, most times we just rise through it and it turns into a battle. I don't know if it's that Calgary-Edmonton thing, but I always see the very best ball out of them and I think we play our best ball against them as well."

The Dinos win prevented the Pandas from earning what would have been a season sweep over their rivals to the south. Second-year Panda Jocelyn Blair, who had a strong performance throughout the weekend with 25 digs and 18 kills through the two games, felt that injuries to Holness, who played sparingly on Saturday, and to Amanda Atkinson, who rolled her ankle while blocking, played a part in the teams' weekend split.

"We were set back with injuries and changes, but we need to pull through with that," she said. "We wanted to win [on Saturday] because we wanted to spread ourselves out from Calgary in the standings. I mean, a loss tonight isn't going to kill us, but we definitely felt that we needed to win."

Tasha Holness finds a home with Pandas, and in Canada

Well-travelled Jamaican-born volleyball player to gain Canadian citizenship after a decade of playing volleyball across continent

ANDREW RENFREE
Sports Staff

For the fans in the Main Gym Saturday night, standing for the national anthem before the volleyball game was merely tradition. People removed their hats, faced the flag and sang as they had done countless times before at other sporting events—nothing special. But for Tasha Holness, who is waiting to take her oath to become a Canadian citizen at the end of the month, hearing “O Canada” has a special meaning.

Holness, in her first year with the Pandas volleyball team, was born in Jamaica and moved to Edmonton in 1996 for better educational opportunities in Canada. Yet after a decade, she says that she's still getting used to the harsh Canadian winter.

Her journey from sandy Jamaica to snowy Edmonton has been a long one with many stops along the way. After high school, she played volleyball with the North Idaho College Cardinals in the NCAA. From Idaho, her volleyball career took her to the University of Calgary and then to Mount Royal College. After travelling more than a rural doctor in the last few years, Holness has adjusted to the Pandas line-up and has become a key contributor this season. She says that playing at different schools under different coaches has improved her game considerably.

“Playing at different schools” has helped me because I’ve had different experiences everywhere. I’m still new to the game and it’s still a learning process, but each experience has been a little different,” Holness said. “Each coach you have teaches similar things, but you get to learn in a different way, and I think having a few coaches has helped me to improve a lot. I’ve actually picked up the game a lot faster than I would

think most people might have.”

Holness only began playing volleyball at the age of 18, but has improved to the point where she’s a strong asset on the court. She leads the Pandas in hitting percentage (.389) and blocks (1.39 per set) and was named the University’s Athlete of the Week of 21-28 November. This accolade was earned for her impressive performance against her former team, the U of C, as she notched 20 kills and ten digs in two matches against the Dinos in November.

The rematch of the battle of Alberta went this weekend at the Main Gym and Holness was excited to play against her former coach, Kevin Boyles, and some of her former teammates from the first time on home court. On Friday night, Holness had ten kills, second only to Tawanna Wardlaw. However, she injured her ankle late in the game, and did not play much on Saturday night as a result. She expects to be healthy the next time Alberta plays. Despite making an early exit, she says that it was great to experience the Battle of Alberta from the other side of the net.

“It felt pretty good [to play against my former team]. I was pretty pumped for it,” she said. “Even though we played together before, you want to beat them because you’re competing against them.” She added that she has really enjoyed her experience thus far with the Pandas.

“There’s a lot expected of the athletes [at the U of A] and we have a winning tradition, which we have to keep going each season. I feel like part of a family when I came to the program here.”

When she’s not giving opponents trouble on the court, Holness is studying Physical Education and Recreation here at U of A. She lives on campus at International House, a residence home to students from more than 30 countries. In light of this,



FILE PHOTO/LEANNE FONG
NEW CANADIAN Tasha Holness (right) will become a Canadian citizen at the end of the month.

she has already amassed a small cheering section composed of her friends from the residence who regularly attend the Pandas home games.

“I love International House, it’s a really great experience,” Holness said with a smile. “I have floormates here supporting me and I always have my little fan club – it’s awesome.”

Holness played volleyball and basketball in high school and also participated in track and

field. Despite her wide athletic experience she says that volleyball is fast becoming her favourite sport.

“I must say I’m growing to love volleyball a lot. If I had to choose, originally I probably would have said my favourite sport is netball, which is similar to basketball. That was my sport back home, and track and field was up there too, but now I love volleyball about as much.”

Volleyball Bears dominate Dinos in back-to-back sweeps

Reigning national champs handle unranked Dinos with ease; haven't lost a set to in-conference competition since 18 November

CHRIS OLEARY
Sports Editor

The steamroller that is the Golden Bears volleyball team continued its domination of the Canada West conference this weekend with a sweep over the Calgary Dinos, as they put them away 3-0 on both Friday and Saturday night in the Main Gym.

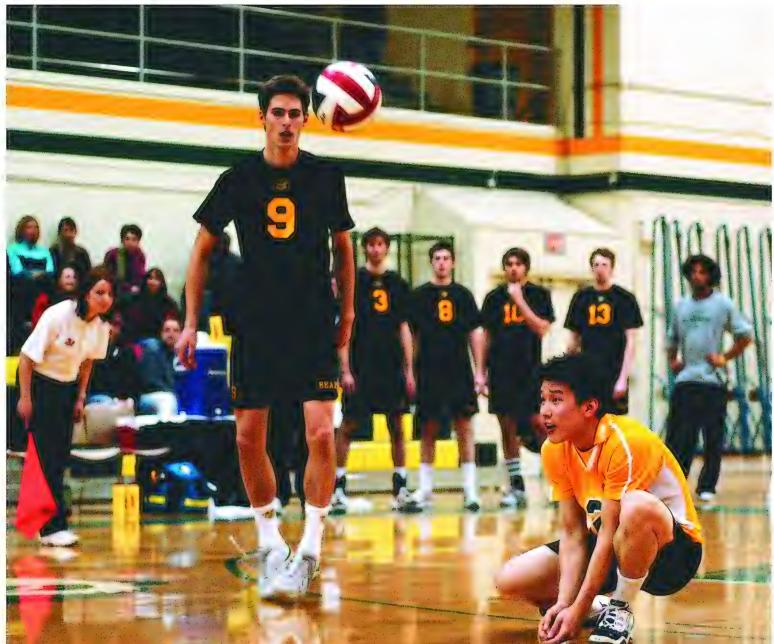
The Dinos grew increasingly frustrated as the Bears front row dominated them both offensively and defensively each night. On Friday, in the absence of their best hitter Alex Gaumont-Casias, who had been sidelined the majority of the week with a charley horse, it was fourth-year right-side hitter Dallas Soonias who led the offensive attack with ten kills in a quick three-game trouncing of the Dinos, who scored no more than 18 points in any set.

"We're not looking so much at the set count. I mean, for me, the big thing is that we keep getting better. That's been our focus, so that [by the end of the season], it's all in place. I think we've made some strides since the first semester for sure."

TERRY DANYLUK
BEARS VOLLEYBALL
HEAD COACH

The Bears used Friday as a warm-up for their Saturday-night drubbing of the Dinos. Gaumont-Casias was back in the lineup and looking to make up for lost time, as he put down a game-high 15 kills in a match that the Dinos didn't contest in at any point, losing 25-16, 25-14 and 25-19. Bear head coach Terry Danyluk noted that the front-row play of his team was significantly better on Saturday night.

"I thought Dallas did a much better job of position blocking [on Saturday]. I think at times our guys get in a tendency where they want to try to stuff the ball every time versus taking away court space. We're actually pretty good defensively behind the block, and I think sometimes we make the mistake of not letting those



PETE EYE
THE SET UP Fourth-year Bears libero Justin Wong gets down low to return a serve from the Calgary Dinos during Friday night volleyball action in the Main Gym.

guys play defence. It seems to me that whenever we position block, it's a lot harder for teams to play against us and we seem to get more blocks that way."

While the loss didn't sit well with Calgary head coach Greg Ryan, he chalked it up to his unranked squad's youth and a key piece of his team still being on the mend from a rough first semester.

"We're young. We've got a setter who was dropped on his head in the summer; he got pneumonia in October, so he's not quite there yet. As

soon as we get there, we'll be alright. [The Bears] are a veteran team that's all fifth-year guys. I like our chances next year."

Danyluk, obviously pleased with the sweep, thought that senior power-hitter Tony Skolnicki played well in Gaumont-Casias' absence on Friday and carried that performance over into Saturday's game.

"We wanted to give Tony a chance to play a bit, because he hasn't had much court time in the last while, but he's really important to us because he's our first guy off the bench," Danyluk

commented. "What I tried to do was have him play in [Gaumont-Casias'] position and in Nicholas Cundy's position to give him the court time. I think it was good, and Tony was pretty solid for us."

The consecutive sweeps of the Dinos this weekend stretches an impressive streak for the Bears, as they have now swept their last five in-conference games, a run that reached back to 18 November. The Bears cast the streak aside, saying they are focused on broader team goals.

"We don't think about those things,"

said Soonias. "We try to think about getting better every day."

"We're not looking so much at the set count," explained Danyluk. "I mean, for me, the big thing right now is that we keep getting better. That's been our focus, so that [by the end of the season] it's all in place. I think we've made some strides since the first semester for sure."

The Bears will try to push their CIS-best record to 24-1 this coming weekend when the fifth-ranked Winnipeg Wesmen visit for a pair of games at the Main Gym.

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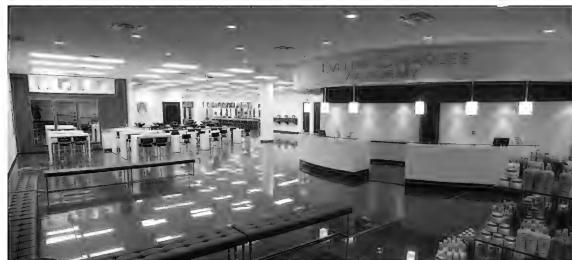
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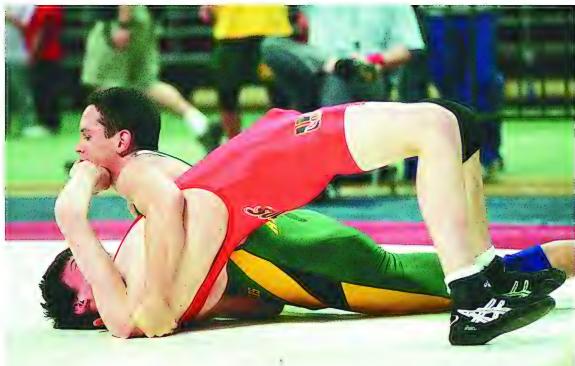
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TAKEDOWN The Golden Bears wrestling team took home three gold medals and two silvers at their own tournament.

Wrestling Bears successful at meet, Pandas struggle

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Staff

While weekends at the Universade Pavilion usually consists of runners and intramural badminton players, this weekend they were replaced with muscular athletes in spandex and sweatpants, as the U of A wrestling team held their annual home tournaments Friday and Saturday, hosting teams and clubs from across the country.

Fridays' tournament was the U of A Varsity Invitational, showcasing university wrestling teams, as well as full-time student wrestlers from non-CIS schools. Saturday's event, the Golden Bear Open, was for any wrestlers 17 years or older.

The U of A's results were split for the weekend; the men did very well, especially on Friday, where they won that evening's tournament. On Saturday, the Bears placed third to the Saskatoon Wrestling Club and University of Calgary. The women struggled, however, coming in sixth on Friday and seventh on Saturday in team points.

"Our men's team looks good," said U of A head coach Yang Ioannides. "The women are just still so young

[On Friday] we had one silver medal, Glynis Frey, who had a decent showing. The other girls gained experience."

Bears earned three gold medals on Friday, from Joe Harrington in the 68-kilo weight class, Joe Slobodan at 61 kilos and Anthony Kulak in the 54-kilo category. The men's squad also produced two silver medals and a bronze.

"Joe Harrington had a banner tournament [Friday]," said Ioannides. "He did very, very well. Kulak was sold and unstoppable. I would say that those were probably the best performances."

Ioannides emphasized that this has been a learning year for his Pandas squad, who graduated most of their female wrestlers at the end of last year. This includes Heidi Kulak, who continues to wrestle locally, however, and competed with the Edmonton Wrestling Club on Saturday.

"Our women's program was really strong last year, but now we're at the point where we have to rebuild it," Ioannides said.

Building up a group of athletes is harder in a sport like wrestling, especially in Edmonton, because the kind of youth development programs that other sports boast locally aren't available here.

"There aren't that many high-school teams," said Ioannides. "It would be a lot easier if, like most of the sports, we could rely on a development system that provided us with ready-made athletes, or at least with ones we can take and mold. Quite often with us, we're building from the ground up."

Of course, part of the problem with finding new recruits might be the intense physical nature of the sport itself. As anyone who's participated in this sport can attest, it's as painful as it looks, and unfortunately, several U of A athletes succumbed to injuries this weekend. Anthony Kulak suffered a mild concussion Saturday morning, and Jarre Wall was also hurt in competition.

"It's a tough sport. I don't think anyone can ever expect to compete without some form of pain, but it's the injuries that are the concern," said Ioannides. "And concussions, you can't fool around with those."

"We have some wounds to lick, but our performance against our varsity competition was excellent, and we did what we had to do," Ioannides said. "If we can do that in a month [at Canada West Championships], we'll be alright."



UNIQUE STYLE As questionable as the hold looks, the action on the mat this weekend was for the most part clean.

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Hockey Bears light Bisons up; Manitoba comes back swinging

Bisons dirty play in blowout game leaves Bears head coach Thurston fuming in a post-game tirade on CIS hockey's no-fighting rule

ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI
Sports Staff

It was a massacre on ice the likes of which haven't been seen since the fictitious portrayal of *Friday the 13th* by icecapes. But even as the Golden Bears sammered off the after a 12-5 drubbing to complete a weekend sweep of the University of Manitoba Bisons, it was a different type of atrocity that had head coach Eric Thurston agitated, as he headed into the Bears dressing room to evaluate the game with his team.

"The officiating was fucking terrible ... and you can quote me on that," spat Thurston on his way in to the room. Emerging a few minutes later and a little more collected, Thurston moved the interview out of earshot of the minor hockey team assembled in the hallway before continuing.

"I guess in my league we can't get fined, but I think overall in our league the stick work and the other stuff is hideous. It's despicable," said Thurston. "We might not have to go as extreme [in officiating standards] as the NHL, but we have to have less tolerance for those things, because you're not allowed to fight in our league."

"You have to give the referees some sense of guidelines. They need all the help they can get and we have to help them out and there's got to be some point where we can take away the stick work."

Thurston was referring to the obscenely physical play of the Manitoba Bisons, who resorted to swinging their sticks at the opposition after swinging them at the pack

stopped working.

A reformation of the rules seems unlikely, however. As long as Alberta has been a dominant program in Canada West, excessive and unpenalized stick use has long been a complaint vocalized by more than a few players and former head coach Rob Daun. But it seemed to be the only tactic Manitoba had left in their arsenal for Saturday's game, after losing 4-2 the night before in a close, physical game that only went the Bears way thanks to a couple of deflections.

"He's a chicken-shit player and he puts that slash in the game, that's bullshit."

ERIC THURSTON
ON MANITOBA'S
RICHARD WOOD

"[On Friday] their goalie stood on his head, we hit some posts and we just didn't have the puck control like we did tonight, and that's what the difference was," said forward Brad Tutschek, who potted four goals and added a helper on Saturday night. "[Manitoba is] a good team and they played well both nights, I think it was just undisciplined penalties that caught up with them."

It was that stampede to the penalty box that overshadowed a fine performance from Tutschek and his linemates Ben Kilgour and Tim Krymus,



THIS ONE GOT UGLY The Bears racked up big points on Saturday night, while Manitoba racked up penalty minutes. MIKE OTTO

who have developed into the Bears top line of late, combining for seven goals and eight assists over the weekend. With 18 infractions between the teams on Saturday night alone and plenty more questionable calls that could have been made, it was an ugly series with an especially ugly ending. The Bisons Richard Wood closed out Saturday's game with a nasty slash on

a Bears player—something that had Thurston fuming after the game and pointing to why the CIS should lessen the penalties for fighting in university hockey.

"At the end ... that hack from [Wood], that's exactly why there should be fighting, because he wouldn't do it [if there was fighting]," said Thurston. "He's a chicken-

shit player and he puts that slash in the game, that's bullshit. What happens if that guy breaks our player's wrist or his arm?"

No penalties or injuries resulted from the slash or the ensuing scrum, something that the oft-injured Bears will be thankful for as they head out on the road next weekend to face the University of Regina Cougars.



Andy Hladyshevsky
Edmonton Strathcona
Campaign Office:
10416-81 Avenue
Telephone: 442-4626
Email:
andystrathcona@telus.net

This Federal Liberal Government Responds to the Needs of Students and Post Secondary Institutions:

Andy's 30-year track record at the University of Alberta includes:

B.Sc. with Distinction, 1976

LLB – 1979

MBA – 1987

Sessional Instructor - Commercial Law - Faculty of Extension – 1992 – 2006

The Liberal Commitment for post secondary education in Alberta:

- 50/50 Tuition Program for affordable post secondary education (announced Jan. 5, 2006)
- Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation - \$134.4 million in bursaries and scholarships in Alberta from 2000 - 2004
- \$2.2 billion pledged over five years to support student financial assistance
- \$550 million over 5 years to extend Canada Access Grants to 55,000 students
- \$3.5 billion over 5 years to increase workplace-based apprenticeships and skills training
- \$1 billion this year for provinces and territories to help universities keep up with increasing enrolment, infrastructure and technology demands



Andy Hladyshevsky – THE Best Choice for the University of Alberta!
Vote for Andy Hladyshevsky January 23.

Authorized by P. Daryl Wilson, Q.C. Official Agent



VOTE ELECTION 2006

On Monday January 23

VOTE!

If liberty and equality, as is thought by some, are chiefly to be found in democracy, they will be best attained when all persons alike share in the government to the utmost.

- Aristotle

Voting is one of the few things where boycotting in protest clearly makes the problem worse rather than better.

- Jane Auer



Platform Report Card

How do the national parties rate on education?

Purpose

To assess which parties have the best post-secondary education policies.

What were they graded on?

The parties have been graded on the policy they have released during the campaign. Parties may have different internal policies, but typically these do not bind a party once elected.

We have focused on three specific policy areas relating to post-secondary education in Canada: affordability, accessibility, and quality funding.

What do the grades mean?

"A" – the best policy, one that displays leadership and recognition of the real problems in Canada's PSE system

"B" or "C" – policies that, to various extents, try to change the status quo but do not fully address the core issue

"D" – policies that maintain the status quo

"F" – policies that worsen the post secondary system

Stephen Harper Conservative Party



Affordability: Three policy announcements:

1. Providing students or their parents with tax credits of up to \$500 to help cover the cost of textbooks.
2. Working with the provinces to increase family income thresholds for student loan eligibility while investing \$100 million per year to improve support for post-secondary students, including the enhancement of the Canada Student Loans Program.
3. Exempting the first \$10,000 of student scholarship or bursary income from taxation.

Grade: C-

Comments: Increasing scholarship exemption will not help the vast majority of students, as the current exemption is \$3,500. Movement on family income thresholds will make loans more accessible to students, but does nothing to address the high costs of education.

Accessibility: No policy announcements.

Grade: D

Comments: Lack of policies in this area represent a tacit endorsement of the status quo.

Quality Funding: One policy announcement:

1. Ensure dedicated funding for education by removing post-secondary education funding from the Canada Social Transfer and placing it in an independent Canada Education and Training Transfer.*

Grade: B-

Comments: No corresponding announcement of how much this transfer will be; but by removing it from the Social Transfer, we will know how much federal money is actually going to education.

* Though not announced as part of the Conservatives' formal election platform, Edmonton Strathcona MP Rahim Jaffer suggested he favours an Income-Contingent Loan Repayment scheme for loan reform, which could have radical implications for students. Please see the attached report for details on overleaf.

Overall: C-

Comments: Stephen, you realize some of the problems with the system, but you don't seem really concerned about them.

Jim Harris Green Party



green party

Affordability: Two policy announcements:

1. Work with provinces and post-secondary institutions to reduce tuition.
2. Harmonize government programs such as the Millennium Scholarship Fund to provide a single needs-based grant programs to reduce student debt.

Grade: B-

Comments: Though it is obvious that their intention is to make education more affordable, without dollar figures it is very difficult to determine how dedicated the Greens are to making post-secondary education affordable.

Accessibility: No policy announcements.

Grade: D

Comments: Lack of policies in this area represent a tacit endorsement of the status quo.

Quality Funding: One policy announcement:

1. Increase investments in post-secondary education and ensure that public funding plays a major role in research and development initiatives.

Grade: C+

Comments: Again, with no dollar figure it is nearly impossible to give a substantive assessment of this policy.

Overall: C

Comments: Jim, you know that the system needs a lot of work, but you're short on specifics here.

Federal Election 2006

Jack Layton
New Democratic Party



Paul Martin
Liberal Party



Affordability: Three policy announcements:

- I. Tie federal funding increases to lower tuition in the provinces. This will be enforced.
2. Re-investing in a stable, long-term grant system to make education affordable in every year of study, including special grants for rural and Aboriginal youth.
3. Overhaul the Canada Student Loans Program to reduce student debt.

Grade: B+

Comments: By tying funding to tuition increases, students will see the direct benefit of federal funding. By creating a strong needs-based grant program, Canada will be able to elevate many underrepresented Canadians into the system. However, more details on how they plan to overhaul the Canada Student Loans program would be appreciated.

Accessibility: One policy announcement:

- I. Tie federal funding increases to improving access to the system in the provinces.

Grade: C+

Comments: Very vague. Please elaborate.

Quality Funding: Two policy announcement:

- I. Will over time, and so long as finances permit, restore \$4 billion to education transfers.
2. Will work to increase federal financial support for university-based research.

Grade: A-

Comments: Restoring the \$4 billion post-secondary education transfer is a positive move, but the vague timeline in restoring the transfer leaves questions.

Overall: B+

Comments: Jack, you're right on the money with your assessment, but the remedies you propose fall short of real action.

Affordability: Two policy announcements:

- I. The Liberal 50/50 plan proposes that the federal government would pay for half of students' tuition in the first and last year of a degree. This plan has a maximum of \$3,000 per year and requires a student to opt out of the Tuition Tax Credit and the Educational Expenses Tax Deduction.
2. \$550 million over five years to extend Canada Access Grants to 55,000 students from low-income families in all years of undergraduate education.

Grade: B-

Comments: Because of having to forfeit the tax credits, the 50/50 plan is not so much new money as it is a moving of money around. The Liberal plan also requires every student opting in to the 50/50 program to participate in the Canada Student Loan program, which is a painful bureaucracy. Extending needs-based grants, however, is a good policy that will help many low-income students.

Accessibility: One policy announcement:

- I. Increase the number of post-secondary Aboriginal graduates to 14,800 over the next 5 years.

Grade: C+

Comments: While the above goal is excellent, there is no directive to improve access to the system for all underprivileged Canadians.

Quality Funding: One policy announcement:

- I. \$1 billion in 2005-06 for provinces and territories for the Post-Secondary Education Innovation Fund to help Canada's universities and colleges keep up with the demands of increasing enrolment, aging infrastructure and new learning technologies.

Grade: C-

Comments: Our universities and colleges need more support than just capital investments and one-time grants. There's nothing here to address the operation of new infrastructure.

Overall: C+

Comments: Paul, you've got a real mixed bag here, some good ideas, some old ideas and some bad ideas. As a package, it needs work.



Candidate Biographies

Edmonton Strathcona Election Candidates

Dave Dowling Marijuana Party Website: www.votedave.net

Background: Has worked at various companies in the oil industry, usually shipping and receiving multi million dollar orders of high tech electronics, radioactive materials and explosives. Ran in Edmonton-Strathcona in 2004.

Linda Duncan New Democratic Party Website: www.electlindaduncan.ca

Education: BA degree and law degree from the University of Alberta and a master of laws degree from Dalhousie Law School

Background: Vice-president of the Sierra Legal Defence Fund and of the Lake Wabamun Enhancement and Protection Association. Served as the chief of enforcement with Environment Canada and the assistant deputy minister for renewable resources for the Yukon Government. Taught environmental law at Dalhousie Law School. Served as head of law and enforcement for the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation.

Mike Fedeyko Progressive Canadian Party Website: www.yesfedeyko.ca

Education: Bachelor of Science from the University of Lethbridge

Background: Works in the bioscience industry.

Andy Hladyshevsky Liberal Party of Canada Website: www.andystrathcona.ca

Education: Bachelor of Science, Law Degree, and an MBA from the University of Alberta.

Background: Is a member of the law firm Fraser Milner Casgrain. He has been a practicing lawyer since 1980 and appointed as Queen's Counsel in 2000. Also involved in many association such as the Edmonton Christmas Bureau and the Canadian Race Relations Foundation.

Income Contingent Loan Repayment: Why Students Should Be Worried

Income contingent loan repayment (ICLR) is an idea for student loan reform where the payment amounts are based on one's income after graduation, as opposed to being solely based on the size of the loan. Usually grads don't repay anything for the first several thousand dollars they earn, and after that they pay a flat percentage of their earnings, usually through the tax system.

This might look good if you're below the cutoff, but even though you don't have to pay it off, your loan still sits there like an albatross and (depending on how interest is treated) gets bigger and bigger. ICLR might add 'flexibility' for middle-income graduates trying to repay their student loans, but the most versions of ICLR are more favorable to high-income grads who can pay their loans off quickly; still, proponents of ICLR suggest the system is more equitable because usually every student is required to take out a loan. But the very idea of ICLR assumes that education should be expensive in the first place.

Why should you care?

You should be concerned because the Liberals toyed with ICLR in the mid-nineties and it is standing Conservative party policy. The Ontario Postsecondary Education Review, led by former Premier Bob Rae also recommended ICLR for Ontario. ICLR schemes have already been implemented in other countries Australia, New Zealand and Britain all have subtly different incarnations, but in each case implementation has been accompanied by dramatic increases in tuition costs. Why? Because debt appears 'more manageable' making it superficially easier to swallow high tuition costs.

Kevan Hunter Marxist-Leninist Party of Canada Website: www.mlpc.ca

Background: U of A Student; APIRG Board Member; Ran in Edmonton-Strathcona in 2004.

Rahim Jaffer Conservative Party of Canada Website: www.voterahimjaffer.com

Education: Bachelor of social sciences degree in political science and economics from the University of Ottawa.

Profession: businessperson, politician

Background: Part owner of a Grabbajabba franchise. Operates a coffee bar in Old Strathcona and a bakery cafe in West Edmonton. Elected in Edmonton Strathcona in 1997, 2000, and 2004.

Cameron Wakefield The Green Party of Canada Website: www.greenparty.ca

Education: Bachelor of Science in physics as well as two years of postgraduate electrical engineering studies from McGill University in Montreal.

Background: He works in customer service. Is a member of the board of directors of the local Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) chapter; a volunteer with the Sierra Club; and president of the Alberta chapter of the Green Party of Canada since 2003. Ran in Edmonton-Strathcona in 2004.

This 'flexible' loan system can be very inequitable. For example: Australia gives a student a 20% discount off their debt if they pay the entire amount immediately after graduation. Rich students therefore receive a discount while the low-income graduates are forced to pay the full amount. Similarly, when the system was introduced in New Zealand it was supposed to be interest-free (the debt only growing to match inflation) but that guarantee lasted all of three years and now interest charges pile up mostly on those taking longer to pay because of lower incomes.

A 'buy-now-pay-later' program is often explicitly championed because it is said to make high debt more manageable. But this misses the mark since high debt is the problem in the first place. High debt hinders many graduates by extending financial hardship for years after graduation, and at its core high debt is really a reflection of the missing government support of public education.

Be wary: ICLR in Canada could be a debt sentence for students.

"Rae also strongly advocates for what they call a study now, pay later model of education, including Canada's first experiment with the controversial idea of income-contingent loan repayment... You benefit, you pay the costs, you take the risks - it's not a societal good that you be educated... The study now, pay later plan turns education into a "Don't Pay A Cent Event" at The Brick. And just like The Brick - it's a scam! And it will prey on the poorest people. It will charge exorbitant prices, it will lower quality and its real purpose is as a front for collection agencies, I mean banks, I mean the same thing."

- Avi Lewis "I Know What You're Against, but What are you for?", Revolutionary Speaker Series, March 2, 2005

No experience necessary? Not for the Maykings

The Maykings

Saturday, 26 January
The Black Dog Freehouse
Wednesday, 18 January
The SideTrack Café

JESSICA WARREN
Arts & Entertainment Staff

"A lot of the singer-songwriters I hear are—how can I put this—not very good. At least, that's what I see at open mic night right now."

Brent Oliver of Edmonton's The Maykings doesn't mince words when it comes his views on musical styles. His self-assuredness isn't necessarily unwarranted, though, as Oliver has spent many years as part of the city's artistic community, first as a member of around 15 bands, and second as a co-owner and entertainment manager at the local musician's Mecca, the SideTrack Café. Oliver and bandmates Tim Balash (vocals, guitar), Duncan Turner (guitar) and Marek Tyler (drums) have enough experience to back up their right to judge a little harshly, a trait that Oliver thinks sets their band apart.

"The last Old Reliable album didn't do that well, and Shuyler Jansen just moved away, so I don't really see a lot of other singer-songwriters out there right now. I think the scene is having a bit of an identity crisis in that a lot of the bands out there, like Shout Out Out Out, for example, are more dance-oriented than music-oriented. Which is great too, but there's definitely less of the music-oriented style of band than there used to be."

The Maykings are countering this shift towards the constantly upbeat with their indie-country repertoire of heart-wrenching songs. Oliver and Balash share the writing

responsibility, and Oliver admits that sometimes things can go a little too well to keep the band up on fresh material.

"Basically, Tim's saying [to his ex-girlfriend], 'I never want to talk to you again; and I'm saying to Slow Fresh Oil, 'I never want to talk to you again.' But for me, now, that's less of an issue."

BRENT OLIVER, THE MAYKINGS

"Everybody's got stress and strife in their life, but luckily for me mine's not about chicks anymore. I'm doing pretty well now, so I haven't written a lot of new songs lately. Most of the ones I have written recently are about the Slow Fresh Oil (Oliver's previous band) dissolution."

The Maykings is a natural musical progression from SFO's indie rock style for Oliver. Calling himself "too old" for the alternative style of his youth, he describes his current band's soon-to-be-released second LP, tentatively titled *Here's to Bridges Burning*, as a melodic goodbye to traumatic events of the past.

"Tim's got a bunch of weird sad songs on this one—he went through a pretty big breakup a couple years ago—and my songs are mostly about Slow Fresh Oil. Basically, Tim's saying [to his ex-girlfriend], 'I never want to talk to you again,' and I'm saying to Slow Fresh Oil, 'I never want to talk to you again.' But for me, now, that's less of an issue."



Given their status as veterans of the music business, the members of The Maykings can certainly empathize with the comparatively fledgling newer bands they have to compare themselves to. However, as they become more popular and recognizable as a band, they're in fact finding their interest in commercial success dwindling, an ironic circumstance given the interest they've generated outside Edmonton. While it may be a rock cliché, The Maykings

are seeing that it can, in fact, be all about the music.

"We got accepted to Canadian Music Week in Toronto, but we decided not to go," says Oliver. "To get time off work, and with families now, it's almost become too difficult to be more popular. We've all had the naive idea we could make it big in the music scene and go on five-week tours and make a living out of it, but now we just don't care about that side of things."

Terrifico takes a hilarious, completely fake look at Canadian country music

The Life and Hard Times of Guy Terrifico

Directed by Michael Mabbott

Starring Matt Murphy, Natalie Radford, Kris Kristofferson, Phil Kauffman and Ronnie Hawkins
Opens 20 January, 2006
Princess Theatre

EDMOND ROTEKA

Arts & Entertainment Staff

Billed as being the first "honky-tonkumentary," *The Life and Hard Times of Guy Terrifico* is an entertaining "mockumentary" about the brief superstardom of the gone-but-not-forgotten country music singer known as Guy Terrifico. It's hard for a film in this genre to live up to its predecessors—most notably the mother of all mockumentaries, *This Is Spinal Tap*—but nevertheless, Director Michael Mabbott's fictional look behind the scenes of the country music scene is humourous, and has more than its fair share of moments.

Avoiding the format fans would be familiar with from *Spinal Tap*, Guy Terrifico plays more like a prolonged episode of VH1's *Behind the Music*, retelling the story of Guy Terrifico from his cradle to his grave or supposed death. In doing so, the film has managed to create its own distinct charm—with a Canadian twist.

Defying country-music clichés, Terrifico came from unremarkable beginnings as "Jimmy Jawblonski" in the heartland of Northern Alberta, born to two loving parents of Ukrainian ethnic origin. The talented Jimmy started composing and singing music at the tender age of 15, especially with entertaining songs about peregrines and the "blue Albertan skies."

However, young Jimmy runs away from Alberta and decides to roam the Southern US, soaking up the music talents of various blues and country music artists. From then on, the film highlights the rise and demise of Guy Terrifico—from his \$8 million lottery win, his purchase of the Barrio

Terrifico (a bar that inspired his name change), his wild parties and drunken antics and ultimately to his surprising return to country music.

The charm of *The Life and Hard Times of Guy Terrifico* lies in its believability. Those who lack any pre-conceived notions about the film itself—or don't know anything about country music in general—are at risk of becoming gullible and falling prey to believing that this film is in fact an actual documentary. The film features a plethora of interviews with real-life country music stars and rock stars such as Kris Kristofferson—a man better known to mainstream audiences for his role as Whistler in the Blade trilogy of movies. Other featured musical notables include country music Billboard chart-topper Merle Haggard and Ronnie Hawkins of the '70s rock group The Band. Even former MuchMusic staple George Stroumboulopoulos is featured in fictional snippets of MuchNews recalling Terrifico's life.

The real charm of *The Life and Hard Times of Guy Terrifico* lies in its music. The song lyrics are often some of the greatest punch-lines, such as "he had a face like Bob Dylan ... only much worse," or "he was thirsty, so he bought some whiskey"—songs that Terrifico sings even though they're a mockery of his own character. Viewers will also be treated to snippets of performances by Kristofferson, Hawkins and even Johnny Cash.

Yet, despite the musical heavyweights, some moments of *Guy Terrifico* will make viewers feel as if they're watching a stunt show along the lines of *Jackson's*. We get to see Terrifico toss around a midget groupie, repeated destructions of drum sets and drunken stupors caught on camera from concert footages and a fictional view show.

However, despite these awkward antics, *The Life and Hard Times of Guy Terrifico* is a joy to watch for its music—which is a pleasure to listen to even if you don't listen to country—and its Canadian twist on country music stardom. *Guy Terrifico* delivers a plausible Canadian story that's entertaining and believable, but unfortunately not true.



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Magnificent Menagerie

The Glass Menagerie

Directed by Kevin Sutley
Starring Nathan Cuckow, Beth Graham, Chris Bullough and Marianne Copthorne
Catalyst Theatre
Until 21 January

EDMON ROTRA
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Tennessee Williams' classic plays often involve plotlines full of tension, lies and emotional tragedy. From Blanche Dubois in *A Streetcar Named Desire* to Maggie Pollitt in *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*, Williams' leading female characters have a unique duality; they may appear happy to friends and family, yet in reality, they must lie to themselves and to those around them in order to live a life of complacency and superficial happiness.

Williams' first major success, *The Glass Menagerie*, is no exception to this rule. The play contains the characteristics and trademark personalities that have made Williams' works famous and timeless around the world—and now on the theatrical stages of Edmonton thanks to Kill Your Television productions.

Set in a cozy apartment in St Louis during the 1930s, audiences are invited into the living room of the Wingfield family. At first, the Wingfields appear to be a tight-knit family led by aging single mother and former homecoming queen Amanda Wingfield (Marianne Copthorne). Amanda, who enjoys selling magazine subscriptions to friends in her spare time, struggles to pay the rent and make ends meet. As a result, she has grown bitter and discontent with her present financial and domestic situation, the latter of which involves two grown children living at home.

Adding to Amanda's discontent is her son Tom (Nathan Cuckow), a man who works a dead-end job as a factory worker. Working long hours at a job he doesn't enjoy has made life dull and boring—making Tom yearn for a life rich with action and adventure. Fortunately, Tom finds this escape by "going to the movies" every night—even if it means staying up late and coming home in a drunken stupor.

Tom's concerned sister, Laura (Beth Graham), is probably the most tragic and depressing characters ever seen in theatre. Her past bout with a disease during her youth has left her incredibly shy, crippled, unemployed and without any interested "gentleman callers" to romance her. Laura's shyness has even caused her to drop out from business college, preventing her from becoming a professional typist. As a result, she spends her days walking through parks alone and listening to old records at home by herself, finding solace only in tending to her collection of glass animals. To spice up Laura's love life, Tom invites his fellow coworker—and potential gentleman caller—Jim O'Connor (played by U of A Alumni Chris Bullough) for dinner,

hoping that perhaps there is yet hope for his shy younger sister.

Anyone who has read their share of Williams' work will be able to guess how it all turns out, but to those unfamiliar, it's safe to say that the ending will not be a happy one. However, despite a depressing conclusion to *The Glass Menagerie*, the play has enough redeeming qualities to make seeing it worthwhile.

Bullough's smile and the never-ending sense of energy and optimism that he brings to Jim may make audiences mistake him for a Tonny Robbins-esque motivational speaker.

The set design of *The Glass Menagerie*, which consists of a single room representing Wingfield's small apartment, is inviting and will make audiences feel at home as they watch Laura attend to her glass collection or witness her mother make a dramatic dinner party entrance with her glamourous old homecoming dress. It's never a dull moment at the Wingfield household, but when the lights dim and the main stage area is nothing but blackness, the transition is seamlessly made to a lonely fire escape in an alley that's lined with the silhouette images of window frames from surrounding buildings. Light fixtures convincingly reflect the night sky and illusion of the alleyway provide Tom Wingfield the solo opportunity to narrate the play and share several asides with the audience.

But the strength of *The Glass Menagerie* rests with Williams' characters, whose characterization, histories, motivations and intentions are skillfully represented by each of the actors. Bullough's smile and the never-ending sense of energy and optimism that he brings to Jim may make audiences mistake him for a Tonny Robbins-esque motivational speaker.

The only issue that could be taken would be with Graham's portrayal of Laura, who doesn't even appear to look or even act crippled at first. Perhaps without intention, though, director Kevin Sutley has managed to work in a means for the audience to see Laura through the eyes of the rest of Wingfield family; a beautiful young woman who is without any flaws, just like the unicorn that's the signature piece of her glass collection.

Kill Your Television has indeed succeeded in what is one of the most challenging aspects of the stage: acting out a tragic and depressing story in manner that makes for not only an engrossing experience, but one that is equally entertaining and enjoyable as well.

The ups and down of Showbiz

Jason Anderson's *Showbiz* has more highs than lows, making for an (almost) true-to-life story that chronicles the rise and fall of a presidential impersonator

Showbiz

By Jason Anderson
ECW Press
On sale now

ADAM GAUMONT
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Showbiz, Jason Anderson's first novel, is a curious mix of light-hearted storytelling and dark conspiracy theories, all set in a quasi-historical alternate universe.

The story begins with Nathan Grant, a modern-day Canadian expat journalist whose visa has expired and who's hacking away for a living as a writer in New York. For some reason, he keeps trying to contribute to a state-sponsored magazine devoted solely to former US President Theodore "Teddy" Cannon, who was to the entire nation's apparently still-inconsolable grief, assassinated in a motorcade in New Orleans in 1963.

...the story parallels the assassination of John F Kennedy and the plight of his real-life impersonator, one Vaughn Meader. Meader...shot to stardom on the basis of his impression of JFK before plummeting straight back down upon the president's death.

Nathan seems to think he's found his big break when he uncovers an old record by a former impersonator of the president, a comedian named Jimmy Wynn. We then follow Nathan around New York, Las Vegas, small-town California and the Canadian side of Niagara Falls as he gunshoes around with varying degrees of sleaziness, desperate to find out what has become of this obscure figure of the past.

At its most basic and obvious level, the story parallels the assassination of John F Kennedy and the plight of his real-life impersonator, one Vaughn Meader. Meader—whose album *The First Family* went to number one, selling an unprecedented 7.5 million copies and winning a Grammy for Album of the Year in 1962—shot to stardom on the basis of his impression of JFK before plummeting straight

JASON ANDERSON
SHOWBIZ



back down upon the president's death. Anderson's Jimmy Wynn undergoes a similar plight, with his tumultuous, substance-abusing post-Cannon life embellished somewhat for effect.

Other subtler and better-researched parallels also emerge in the novel. For example, real-life comedian Lenny Bruce makes an appearance in the novel as alias—whose anecdote about remarking, upon the president's death, that Wynn/Meader is "screwed" apparently happened in real life—and real-life illustrate David Bleasdale and his cube-dwelling antics are lampooned in the form of "Illustration" David Maher, who is connected with the other major characters. The book also successfully lampoons crooner Frank Sinatra and his ties with both the President and the mob.

Perhaps the most intriguing—and perhaps parallel—is that of the various conspiracy theories that continue to linger over Cannon's death, including the supposition that he was

not, in fact, killed at all. Indeed, the novel is at its most compelling when such theories begin to weave their way into the plot, with the annoyingly self-deprecating and overly Canadian journalism Nathan caught in the middle. At this point, the story evolves from a tame, nobody-gets-hurt tale to an intense, John Grisham-inspired political thriller.

That said, the biggest let-down comes when the intricately woven conspiracy theories and multi-layered plot disappear without a trace at the end, reverting to the corny, "ah-shucks" goings-on of our half-heated hero Nathan that kicked off the novel.

Despite its varying levels of excitement, Anderson's book is a pleasant, humorous read throughout, especially for those who can relate to the hard luck, starving writer lifestyle portrayed through Nathan. At its best, it blurs the line between history and historical fiction, revisiting many ghosts of the past and creating some new ones as well.

energy made beautiful music.

Standouts on the disc include a demo of "Sappy" (known to most Nirvana fans as "Verse Chorus Verse," originally released as a hidden track on the No Alternative AIDS-benefit compilation) and a pair of acoustic-guitar guitar solo appearances, "Lithium" and "Opinion."

For true fans of Nirvana, Best of the Box represents an opportunity to hear how many of these songs came together, as well as the opportunity to hear them as they were truly meant to be experienced; not as over-produced tracks on a CD, but as raw musical opuses from the very soul of a grunge-rock genius.



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From the 1950s to present, wetsuits and surfboards have been filmmaker favourites



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With winter finally showing its ugly face to Edmonton, it's time to bust out some movies that make you feel a bit warmer inside. From classics like *Fast Times at Ridgemont High*, to "classics" like *Point Break*, the undeniable awesomeness of surfboards and wetsuits have indeed permeated the world of film. Here are just a handful of interesting surfing movies to get your mind off the cold.

Gidget (1959)

The classic narrative surfing film, *Gidget* is the story of a young girl discovering surfing one fine summer. Grouped here mostly for historical significance, *Gidget* is probably the most famous of the "girl surfer" genre of movies. However, I'm going to get sacrilegious and say that it isn't as good as any of the other films on this list. Still, a good choice for those who want to grove to the '50s style of surfing.

The Endless Summer (1966)

In 1966, filmmaker Bruce Brown followed two surfers as they trekked around the world looking for the ultimate wave. The documentary that followed was a quirky, laid-back and surprisingly earnest account of their search. Some people may be turned off by Brown's Disney-nature-film-esque method of narration and the cheesy surfer-dude theme song. By the *Sandals*, but most will be able to see them as the film's greatest strengths. In 1994, with the help of his son, Brown returned to the locations of the original film in *The Endless Summer 2*, and witnessed how much *The Endless Summer* had influenced surfing culture and the locations that they travelled to in the '60s. If you see one surfing movie, this should be the one.

"SURPRISINGLY PASSABLE" Surfing can make for a movie filled with T&A, but a few decent films about the sport have been made, like 2002's *Blue Crush*.

Blue Crush (2002)

Director John Stockwell has carved a niche for himself making films that are surprisingly decent, despite seeming like they should be absolutely terrible. *Blue Crush* (and to a slightly lesser extent the Kirsten Dunst lead *Crazy/Beautiful*) are prime examples of this. Storywise, this film is practically a remake of *Gidget*, but with a touch—just a touch—more depth. However, the passable story paired with just enough character complexity makes the film prime couple's viewing before the point of the movie shows up—amazing surfing footage. Some of the shots from inside the curls of waves are breathtaking. It should be noted that Stockwell's latest film, *Into the Blue*, did not

continue the "surprisingly decent" streak.

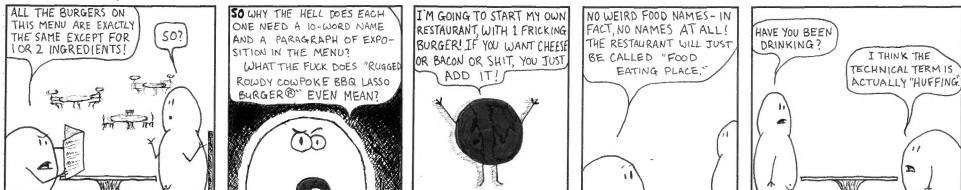
Step Into Liquid (2003)

Speaking of Bruce Brown's son, Dana Brown, this list wouldn't be complete without mentioning the recently released *Step Into Liquid*, which was helmed by the younger Brown. While *Liquid* doesn't have the same sense of adventure or fun that *The Endless Summer* captured so perfectly, it makes up for it by having some of the best surfing footage ever put to film. While *Blue Crush* had similar shots for a few seconds, *Step Into Liquid* keeps the fabulous photography coming for almost its entire running length. Best watched on a big screen TV.

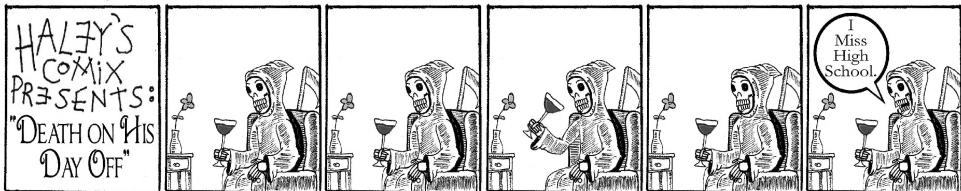


NEAL WILDING
MOBILE ENTERTAINMENT Matt Joly of the Montréal rock band Mobile played at a packed Powerplant Saturday night.

PEANUT & CIRCLE by Chris Krause



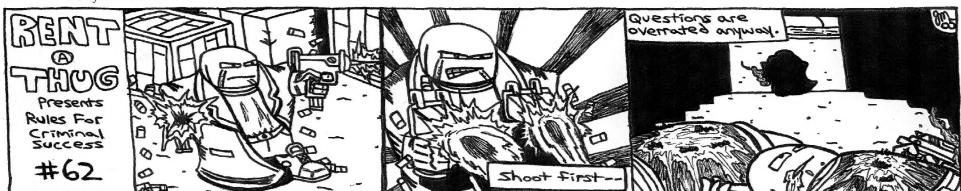
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